

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19 of the above-captioned application (paragraph [0012] in the published version) with the following rewritten paragraph [0012]:

-- [0012] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, the latch mechanism 20 includes a housing 19 having a first side 21 and an opposite second side 23. A latch hook 22 is ~~mounted to~~ disposed on the first side 21 of the housing 19 and is lockably engagable with a striker bar 24 fixedly secured to the vehicle 12. The latch hook 22 is movable between a locked position lockingly engaged with the striker bar 24 and an unlocked position disengaged with the striker bar 24 to allow movement of the door 12 between the closed and opened positions. The latch hook 22 is biased toward the locked position by a biasing member (not shown) of any suitable variety, such as a clock spring extending between the latch mechanism 20 and the latch hook 22. A release lever 30 is pivotally mounted to a mounting bracket 31 that is ~~mounted to~~ disposed on the second side 23 of the housing 19 and is operatively coupled to the latch hook 22 for moving the latch hook 22 between the locked and unlocked positions in response to clockwise and counterclockwise movement of the release lever 30, as viewed in FIGS. 2 and 3. A detailed description of the structure and function of such a latch mechanism 20 is disclosed in commonly owned U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,353 B1 issued on Dec. 11, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. --